

Let me say at the outset, I support the right of Israel to exist and to defend itself from attack. I cannot support the level of retaliation it is using against the civilian population that did not provoke the attack. Hezbollah is the guilty party, and their attacks were egregious, without merit, and provocative. Israel must direct its campaign against confirmed Hezbollah strongholds. Given the sophistication of current surveillance technology and intelligence-gathering, I am convinced those strongholds can be effectively eradicated, without the current and ongoing loss of life and casualties to innocent civilians.

This resolution on first glance would appear to be easy to support, but on further review, it poses serious philosophical problems for me. Hezbollah provoked the attacks by capturing and killing Israeli soldiers. Indeed, in some instances, Hezbollah is using Lebanese civilians as shields.

The resolution declares that the House affirms its support for Israel. I believe that offering unconditional support to Israel's response sends the signal that the House supports the continuing and increasing carnage that is taking place in Lebanon. I fully recognize that lives have been lost in Israel too. All of these deaths are tragic and deplorable. This resolution does not even offer counsel to Israel to aggressively pursue the course of minimizing civilian loss of life. Furthermore, the resolution recognizes Israel's commitment to minimizing civilian loss of life. To date, Israeli military operations have resulted in excess of 300 civilians killed, with an estimated one-third of them being children. I do not see Israel's actions being consistent with a commitment to minimizing the loss of life.

The resolution also cites Israel's right to take appropriate action to defend itself, including conducting operations in both Israel and in the territory of nations which pose a threat to it. At the present time, Israeli military bombing operations are completely dismantling the infrastructure of Lebanon. Bridges, roads and buildings are being destroyed. Once the campaign wanes, the country will consist of rubble.

I am also concerned by the language that commends the President for fully supporting Israel. The language and the message state explicitly that the House supports the way he has handled the current crisis. I strongly disagree with this premise and statement.

I want to state that I am mindful that although the focus of our current attention is on the plight of the citizens affected in Israel and Lebanon, we must not forget the other component of the equation—the situation in Gaza involving the Palestinians.

In Gaza, a cordon has been set up by the Israelis, and Palestinians are suffering under unbearable conditions. My concern rests with the humanitarian plight of civilians in Gaza and Lebanon that are pawns in a struggle by terrorist organizations. Both organizations, Hamas—Sunni—and Hezbollah—Shia—provide vital social services such as education and medical care to civilian populations, while simultaneously engaging in terrorist activities. In fact, their efforts and ideologies have created desperate political and military scenarios. In the case of Hezbollah, their efforts are contributing to instability in the region.

I fully recognize the gravity of the situation that is presented by the unconscionable and provocative behavior of Hezbollah. I also have grave reservations about the level of the re-

sponse by Israel to Hezbollah's actions. The competing complexities and mixed messages presented by the language in the resolution preclude me from offering my support to H.Res. 921. Therefore, I will cast a vote of "nay" on this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 150th anniversary of the founding of a storied community in Southwest Michigan, Chikaming Township. This Saturday, members of the community will come together to celebrate the township's sesquicentennial.

The earliest known residents of Chikaming Township were the Miami Indians, who were first encountered by the European explorer, Father Jaques Marquette, in 1675. By the early 1820s the land was ceded to the U.S. Government and Chikaming was formally established on March 6, 1856. The first pioneers to settle there were lumbermen who harvested trees that were used to build the piers that extend out into Lake Michigan—a source of great pride for all Michiganders who reside on the lakeshore. As time passed, the first of many successful farmers and growers in Southwest Michigan took advantage of the soil and climate of Chikaming by harvesting a variety of fruits and vegetables. The magnificent weather and scenic beauty of the land attracted families to vacation on the lake's shores and continues to be a popular summer escape today.

Chikaming Township has also long been an important center of commerce for Southwest Michigan. Forestry and agriculture are only two of the many industries that have strengthened Southwest Michigan's economy. The beautiful beaches and friendly residents have been bringing generations back to the township for years.

I would like to congratulate the residents of Chikaming on their sesquicentennial. Know that your vital community will continue to be a blessing and an asset to our corner of Southwest Michigan for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND S.L. ROBERSON

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the tremendous works of Reverend S.L. Roberson, of Ypsilanti, Michigan as he marks his 52nd year of service to his church and his community.

Born in Moundville, Alabama, Reverend Roberson moved to Ypsilanti when he was two years old and has remained there since. He attended school in Ypsilanti and went to Eastern Michigan University for his undergraduate degree and continued his education at Detroit Bible College, ultimately earning his Doctorate of Divinity at Urban Bible College.

While honorably serving his country in the United States Marine Corps, the Reverend formed the unique perspective he has on the world, one that would help him in his decision to serve his fellow man. After his military service, Mr. Roberson went to work for Ford Motor Company in their Labor Relations and Personnel Services of Industrial Relations Department ultimately staying for 33 years. Through this position, he was able to help many individuals find employment, in turn bettering their own lives. The Reverend's other services are numerous, including posts as Treasurer of the Huron Valley District Association and President of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission.

In 1954, Reverend Roberson heard the call to service and became the Pastor of the Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church in Ypsilanti. He has stayed with Metropolitan Baptist for 52 years and by every account his service has been productive. He provides leadership and moral guidance for his congregation, in turn leading the community through his example. His tenure has been so successful that he has received the Lawyers Association's Liberty Bell, the Ypsilanti Police Department's Honor Award, the Washtenaw Community College's Service Award and the city of Ypsilanti has designated December 14th as Reverend S.L. Roberson day. His faith also led him to serve as Chaplain of the Ypsilanti Police Department.

Reverend Roberson is a man of faith who embodies the characteristics of service, love and decency. I am glad and fortunate to know the Reverend and the people of Ypsilanti have truly benefited from such an upstanding and committed civic and spiritual leader. I thank the Reverend for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT- TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I am proud to come to the floor today to voice my support for this resolution.

Since the year 2000, Israel has demonstrated a willingness to act unilaterally in the name of peace; only to have their enemies respond with more acts of violence.

In 2000, Israel withdrew their forces from southern Lebanon, only to be followed by Hezbollah and their missiles.

In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza, only to be replaced by the militant wing of the Hamas party.

As a sovereign and independent nation, Israel has every right to defend itself from these constant attacks led by groups with the expressed purpose of destroying Israel.

There is agreement in this House and in the world community that there be peace in the Middle East, so that all families, whether they be Israeli, Palestinian, or Lebanese, can live without fear.

But there will be no peace so long as these terrorist organizations insist on the destruction of Israel.

There will be no peace, until Hamas agrees to curtail acts of violence and aggression and

show that they are willing to work towards a two-state solution.

Our own soldiers are currently engaged against an enemy that has no respect for human life and a complete disdain for democracy.

In this Global War on Terror, we have no greater ally than the nation of Israel, whose citizens are all too familiar with terrorists and their tactics.

I am proud to support this resolution because I believe it is important that we let the Israeli people know that we stand behind their right to defend their homeland and their citizens. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution, so that we may speak with one voice so that there may be peace for all people in the Middle East.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today the House is considering H. Res. 921, a resolution condemning the recent attacks against the State of Israel.

The resolution focuses on the attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah on Israel and expresses its condolences to all families of innocent victims of the recent violence. While the resolution is not perfect, it does call on the international community to cooperate to bring an end to the violence in the region.

The two sides cannot resolve this by themselves, and it is clear that only a diplomatic track will help to address the wide-spread unrest in the Middle East. Believing that, I would prefer the resolution do more to solidify the U.S. as an honest broker in the conflict.

It is unfortunate that while the violence has continued for more than a week now, Secretary of State Rice still has failed to travel to the region. Even further, she has declined to send a Special Envoy to focus exclusively on the crisis. This is yet one more example of the Bush Administration's failure on the foreign policy front.

The Administration must become engaged with the international community in pursuing a peaceful and just resolution to this on-going crisis instead of standing by while innocent civilians are killed. President Bush's stubborn involvement in Iraq has made it difficult for the U.S. to focus on this and other conflicts in the region. Instead of bringing parties to the negotiating table, President Bush and Secretary Rice have ignored the region while it has literally gone up in flames.

History has shown that the U.S. is most successful when it supports evenhanded, diplomacy-based foreign policy. This can be achieved by supporting and implementing the legislation I introduced earlier this year, SMART (H. Con. Res. 158). SMART steps include:

1. Preventing future acts of terrorism by strengthening international institutions and respect for the rule of law;

2. Reducing the threat and stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction;

3. Addressing the root causes of terrorism;

4. Shifting U.S. budget priorities to more effectively meet our national security needs; and

5. Pursuing to the fullest extent alternatives to war.

Until the Bush Administration adopts principles like these in the Middle East, and throughout the world, the cycle of unrest will continue.

Unlike previous Congressional acts, SMART strives to achieve a balance of support for all parties and puts the U.S. in the role of a partner for peace in Middle East.

With my constituents and colleagues, I call on the President to dedicate himself fully to the peace process and to guarantee the safety and well-being of all innocent civilians involved in the chaos in the Middle East.

INTRODUCTION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Reps. HOWARD BERMAN (D-CA) and JERROLD NADLER (D-NY), am introducing a resolution commending the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General. For those who may not be aware, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was established in 1988 as part of an effort to investigate waste, prevent fraud, and review legislation at the Department.

The OIG and its agents and employees have been unwavering in their pursuit of justice. Even in the most trying of times, the OIG has been steadfast in its resolve. For instance, it was the OIG that uncovered the truth behind the incarceration of Brandon Mayfield as a material witness in the Madrid bombing investigation. It was the OIG that exposed the abuses of detainees in federal custody after the September 11 attacks.

On June 21, 2006, Special Agent William "Buddy" Sentner gave his life in service to his country, attempting to execute a search warrant on behalf of the Department. He left behind a legacy of public service and patriotism. His service no doubt will inspire those who follow.

This resolution recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of the agents, attorneys, and employees of the Office of the Inspector General. I look forward to working with my colleagues on securing passage of this legislation.

32ND ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH ILLEGAL INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today, as I have for more than two decades, to voice intense objection to the illegal occupation of Cyprus by Turkish troops and to declare my grave concern for the future of the island. The Turkish incursion into Cyprus, thirty-

two years ago, has rendered a legacy of internal division, and should worry those in this chamber who cherish freedom and espouse the virtues of democracy.

In July 1974, Turkish troops invaded and captured the northern part of Cyprus, seizing more than a third of the island. The Turkish strategy included ethnic cleansing. Not only did the Turks expel 200,000 Greek-Cypriots from their homes, but Turkish troops also were responsible for the systematic killing of 5,000 innocent civilians. In the process, Turkey installed 40,000 military personnel on Cyprus. Today, these troops, in conjunction with United Nations (U.N.) peacekeeping forces, make the small, once peaceful island of Cyprus one of the most militarized areas in the world. Well over a quarter of a century later, approximately 1,500 Greek-Cypriots remain missing, including four Americans.

The Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities are separated by a 113-mile barbed wire fence, called the Green Line. Until 2003, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), a government formally recognized only by Turkey, prohibited Greek-Cypriots from freely crossing the Green Line to visit the towns and communities of their families. Controlling 37 percent of the island, Turkey's military occupation has had severe consequences, most notably the dislocation of the Greek-Cypriot population and the resulting refugees.

The Republic of Cyprus has proven to be an ally of this country. An ally which, in times of need, stands up to the plate and offers assistance, understanding and compassion to our citizens.

I am sure that most of you have been following the developments in Lebanon, and the plight of over 25,000 Americans who are trying to leave safely with their families. How many of you know that Cyprus has opened its doors to everyone evacuating Lebanon? On July 15, 2006, Cyprus declared its readiness to assist efforts for the evacuation of U.S. citizens and other nationals fleeing Lebanon. A coordinating committee set up by the Cyprus government is in charge of organizing the reception and hospitality of foreign nationals arriving in Larnaca from Lebanon.

The U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Ronald Schlicher said that several thousand U.S. citizens were expected to arrive on Cyprus. They will stay in hotels or—if there are not enough beds—in schools and an exhibition space equipped with tents and prefab housing provided by the Cyprus government. Thanking Nicosia, Schlicher said that the Cyprus Republic had offered significant assistance and that this could be a good opportunity to deepen U.S.-Cyprus cooperation.

During the U.S. State Department briefing on the Lebanon evacuation efforts, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Maura Hartly expressed gratitude for help offered by the Cyprus Republic. "We're so grateful to them. . . Cypriots have met every helicopter and ship with sandwiches and water and juice. They're just being fantastic" she said. "The Cypriot Civil Defense Force has been very helpful to us in what they have provided," she added.

The Cypriot citizens know first-hand what our people are going through because they have lived through it. I want to personally recognize and thank President Tassos Papadopoulos and the Greek-Cypriot people